Claims

[c1]   A method of printing from a computing device, said method comprising:

sending a print task to a local print system component;

acquiring printing data related to said print task with said local print system component;

sending said print task to a remote print system component; and

sending said print task to at least one device in communication with said remote print system component for printing.

[c2]   The method of claim 1 wherein said local print system component is a spooler.

[c3]   The method of claim 1 wherein said local print system component is a print processor.

[c4]   The method of claim 1 wherein said remote print system component is a spooler.

[c5]   The method of claim 1 wherein said remote print system component is a print processor.

[c6]   The method of claim 1 further comprising reconfiguring said print task according to said printing data related to said print task.

[c7]   The method of claim 6 wherein said reconfiguring is performed via said local print system component.

[c8]   The method of claim 6 wherein said reconfiguring is performed via said remote print system component.

[c9]   The method of claim 6 wherein said reconfiguring enables said print task to be printed on at least one remote device.

[c10]   The method of claim 6 wherein said reconfiguring comprises reconfiguring said print task for cluster printing on printers remote to said local print system component.

[c11]

A method of remote printing, said method comprising:

sending a print task to a local print system component;

determining characteristics of said print task;

determining whether at least one remote device is suitable for printing said print task; and

reconfiguring said print task for printing on said remote device.

[c12]   The method of claim 11 further comprising prompting a user for printing task preferences.

[c13]   The method of claim 11 further comprising sending said print task to a remote print system component.

[c14]   The method of claim 11 wherein said determining characteristics is accomplished via said local print system component.

[c15]   The method of claim 13 wherein said determining characteristics is accomplished via said remote print system component.

[c16]   The method of claim 11 wherein said reconfiguring comprises job splitting among remote devices.

[c17]   The method of claim 11 wherein said reconfiguring comprises copy splitting among remote devices.

[c18]   The method of claim 11 wherein said reconfiguring comprises distribution of a print task to a cluster of remote printers.

[c19]   The method of claim 11 wherein said reconfiguring comprises changing the destination of a print task.

[c20]

A method of remote printing, said method comprising:

sending a print task to a local print system component;

determining characteristics of said print task;

sending said print task characteristics to a remote print system component;

checking whether at least one remote device is suitable for printing said print task based on said print task characteristics and remote device capability, said checking being performed via said remote print system component; and

sending said print task to at least one suitable remote device.

[c21]   The method of claim 20 further comprising reconfiguring said print task for
          said at least one suitable remote device.

[c22]   A system for remote printing, said system comprising:
          a local computing device;
          a local print system component;
          a remote print system component;
          at least one remote printing device;
          wherein said system determines characteristics of a print task and said remote
          print system component searches for remote printing devices among said at
          least one remote printing device that are capable of printing said print task, and
          said system reconfigures said print task to utilize at least one of said capable
          printing devices and sends said print task to said at least one of said capable
          printing devices.

[c23]   A computer readable medium comprising instructions for performing functions
          within a print system component, said instructions comprising the acts of:
          receiving a print task;
          determining print task characteristics;
          sending print task characteristic data to a remote print system component;
          receiving printer data from said remote print system component, said printer
          data identifying printers capable of printing said print task;
          reconfiguring said print task, if necessary, to accommodate printing on said
          printers capable of printing said print task;
          sending said print task to said remote print system component; and
          sending said print task from said remote print system component to said
          printers capable of printing said print task.

[c24]   A computer readable medium comprising instructions for performing functions
          within a first print system component, said instructions comprising the acts of:
          receiving print task characteristics from a second print system component;
          checking for printers in communication with said first print system component
          that are capable of printing said print task;

sending capable printer data to said second print system component;

[c25] A computer data signal embodied in an electronic transmission, said signal having the function of reconfiguring a print task for remote printing using a print system component, said signal comprising instructions for:

receiving a print task;

determining print task characteristics;

sending print task characteristic data to a remote print system component;

receiving printer data from said remote print system component, said printer data identifying printers capable of printing said print task;

reconfiguring said print task, if necessary, to accommodate printing on said printers capable of printing said print task;

sending said print task to said remote print system component; and

sending said print task from said remote print system component to said printers capable of printing said print task.